

Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
Status Update: June 13, 2008 at 1 p.m.

Severe Weather- June 13, 2008

Severe weather occurred last night in several jurisdictions throughout the state. Initial damage assessment shows that Mason County was the most severely impacted area. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has issued travel restrictions for overweight and oversize vehicles in a six-county area including Lake, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford counties.

Reports indicate the Wexford County central dispatch is down and without communications.

The Michigan State Police (MSP) Manistee Post reported a lightning strike causing the Post to operate under generator power.

Oakland and Livingston counties report minor damages from severe weather last night. No requests for state resources at this time.

There is a possibility of more severe weather throughout the state today.

Mason County: cursory damage assessment indicates at least 20 roadways are washed out and U.S. 31 is shut down from Manistee to Scottville (U.S. 31 closed to through traffic for 21 miles). MDOT reports the damages to U.S. 31 cannot be temporarily repaired. Mason County also reports several sewer lines are broken.

Mason County declared a local state of emergency today and their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated. No injuries have been reported. The American Red Cross has opened a shelter for affected residents.

State Agency Responses

MDOT assessment and response personnel are currently unable to access the damaged areas due to high water. Damage assessment will be conducted after the water begins to recede.

The MSP Aviation Unit is conducting a damage assessment flight over the affected six-county area, specifically Mason County, to obtain aerial photos and video footage.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) activated the Region 6 Medical Coordination Center to monitor possible health and medical concerns.

Recent Declarations

Mason County- Local Declaration

Mason County declared a local state of emergency as a result of severe weather on June 13. Local resources are being utilized to the fullest extent possible and local officials indicate they are beginning to be maxed out.

Lake County- Local Declaration

Lake County declared a local state of emergency as a result of severe weather beginning on June 6.

Ottawa County- Request for a Governor's Declaration

Ottawa County requested a Governor's Declaration today specifically requesting resource and relief assistance necessary to respond to the situation.

Requests for State Resources

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is actively reviewing seven requests for a Governor's Declaration.

Federal Assessment Resources

A representative with the Small Business Administration (SBA) is currently conducting damage assessment in the City of Lansing and surrounding areas. The SBA representative is accompanied by personnel with the MSP/EMHSD and Lansing Fire Department.

Local Declarations

Eaton County (June 8)
City of Lansing (June 8)
Ottawa County (June 9)
Delta Township (June 9)
Allegan County (June 10, submitted June 11 to MSP/EMHSD)
Saginaw County (June 11)
Osceola County (June 11)
Barry County (June 12)
Lake County (June 13)
Mason County (June 13)

Request for a Governor's Declaration

- Delta Township (June 9)
 - No request for state resources
- City of Lansing (June 10)
 - Request for resources include:
 - 15 forestry task force crews (5 minimal personnel trained in tree removal, with necessary equipment)
 - 10 two-person damage assessment teams
 - 4 line crews (energy restoration crews)
 - 3 dump trucks with personnel
 - 1 endloader with a grab bucket, with personnel
- Saginaw County (June 11)
 - Request for assistance with debris removal and any financial assistance that may be available.
- Osceola County (June 11)
 - Request for assistance with extensive debris removal and with emergency protective measures.
- Allegan County (June 11)
 - Request for assistance to supplement local response and recovery efforts in rebuilding a roadway which is the primary access for 14 residences; to fix and repair culverts and public drains that have been destroyed; and support citizens with flooded homes.
- Eaton County (June 12)
 - Request for funding for debris removal, funding or assistance for road repair, and funding for responder overtime costs.
- Ottawa County (June 13)
 - Request for resource and relief assistance necessary to respond to the situation.

Storm Related Fatalities

There are six confirmed fatalities resulting from the severe weather on June 6-8, 2008. Three fatalities in Ottawa County, two fatalities in Allegan County, and one fatality in Delta Township (Eaton County). There are two fatalities confirmed in Argentine Township (Genesee County) on June 9 as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator located in the home used during an electricity outage.

A vehicle submerged in the Thornapple River in Kent County today at 4:30 a.m. resulting in one fatality. Reports indicate the car went into the river and traveled about 200 yards downstream from where it left the road. There is a strong current in the river due to increased water levels from recent rain.